Wedding Band Worksheet

1. Describe the *stasis* in the play: where, when, who, what, etc. in a paragraph.

The setting of *Wedding Band* is a coastal town in South Carolina in 1918. A woman named Julia has been seeing a poor white man, Herman, for ten years, but they are prevented from getting married because of the south’s laws. Herman bakes cake, but his mother and sister despise him because he values Julia just as much of them. Julia moves into town to plan to move to New York with Herman.

2. What is the *intrusion*?

The intrusion occurs when Herman is visiting with Julia and falls ill of the flu. At this time the flu was known to be lethal. They are forced to contact Annabelle (the sister) and Herman’s mother.

3. What is the *unique factor*?

Because they are forced to visit Herman on his deathbed, Annabelle and the mother find out that Herman gave money to Julia for her to move instead of to them.

4. What is the *dramatic question* that should be answered by the end of the play?

Will Herman run away with Julia with the money or give it to his family? What will become of the animosity between Julia and Herman’s family? Will Herman die of the flu? Will they contact the hospital even though the consequences they may face for a white man being in a black woman’s home?

5. Provide an illustration of the *two kinds of exposition* that the play has in it.

Everyone knows that Julia is a relatively well off and put together black woman based on the way she carries herself.

Only Julia knows of her relationship of Herman and plan to run away

6. Identify the most *theatrical moment* in the play and of what importance it seems to be.

The most theatrical moment is the conversation between Julia and Herman on Herman’s deathbed. At first, Julia chastises Herman because of the actions of his family and his white counterpart’s role in slavery and oppression. This shows the animosity between white and black people at the time. Next, she thanks him for his support of her despite the adversity he may have faced from fellow whites. This shows the selflessness of Herman. Next she gives the money to the children for them to travel north, and denies Herman’s mother entrance into her home as Herman dies. This shows that Julia and Herman’s relationship triumphed over Herman and his family’s relationship

7. List some of the *themes* of the play.

Strife between family relationships vs romantic relationships (Julia/Herman vs Herman/His family); The strength of mother and son relationships (Nelson and Lula); racism.

8. What do the principal characters *want* and what are some *obstacles* that stand in the way of them getting what they want?

Julia and Herman want to marry, but the laws in the south prevent them from doing so, and their socio-economic background make it very hard for them to make enough money to move north. Also, Herman’s family wants the money for themselves.

9. Describe some possible *images* in the play and how does the *title* help us understand the play.

The “wedding band” provides a strong image of the love between Herman and Julia. No matter what they faced- racism, poverty, and a family that was against them- in the end their love for each other triumphed, and this is symbolized by the band.

10. Briefly define the *family relationships* that are examined in the play.

* Son and mother- Herman and his mother
  + Lula and Nelson
* Brother and sister- Herman and Anabelle
* Daughter in law and mother in law- Julia and Herman’s mother
* Sister in law and sister in law- Julia and anabelle